

Newington-Green Jan: 16: 1779th

Dear Sir

Your most kind and excellent letter, together with the letter conveying the resolution of Congress, has made the deepest impression on my mind. I entreat you to accept yourself and to deliver to Dr Franklin and Mr Adams my best acknowledgm^{ts}. Tho' I cannot hesitate about the reply address'd to the Honourable Commissioners and thro' them to Congress, which accompanies this letter, yet so flattering a testimony of the regard of an Assembly which I consider as the most respectable and important in the world, cannot but give me the highest pleasure, and I shall always reckon it among the first honours of my life.

There is an indolence growing upon me as I grow older which will probably prevent me for ever from undertaking any public employ^{mt}. When I am in my study and among my books, and have nothing to en-
cumber me I am happy; But so weak are my spirits that the smallest hurry and even the consciousness of having

any thing to do w^{ch} must be done, will sometimes distress
and overpower me. — What I have written on
the subject of Finances has been chiefly an amusement
which I have pursued at my leisure with some hope
indeed but very little expectation of its being useful.
Nothing can be more melancholy than to see so many
great European States depressed and crippled by heavy
debts which have been the growth of ages and w^{ch} in the
end must ruin them, but which a small appropriation
faithfully applied might have always kept within the
bounds of safety. This is particularly true of this
country. Here our debts must soon produce a shocking
catastrophe. The new world will, I hope, take warn-
ing; and profit by the follies, corruptions and miseries of
the old.

My Pamphlets on the principles of Govern^t and the Ameri-
can war were extorted from me by my judgm^t and my
feelings. They have bro^t upon me a great deal of
abuse; but abundant amends have been made me
by the approbation of many of the best men here and
abroad, and particularly by that vote of Congress^{to} which
I suppose they may have contributed. When you write
to any of the members of that Assembly be so good as to
represent me as a zealous friend to liberty who is anx-
iously attentive to the great struggle in w^{ch} they are engag^d
and who wishes earnestly for the sake of the world

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^{British} that America may preserve its liberty, set an example of moderation and magnanimity, and establish ^{such} forms of government: as may render it an asylum for the virtuous and oppressed in other countries.

Tell Dr Franklin that he is one of the friends in whom, while in this country, I always delighted, and for whom I must ever retain the greatest esteem and affection. We are now separated from one another never probably to meet again on this side the grave. May he be long preserved a blessing to his country. My connexions and state of health and spirits are such, that I must stay in this country and wait its fate. I do this with a painful concern for the infatuation that has bro't it into its present danger, but at the same time with indifference as far as my own personal interest is concerned, and a perfect complacency in the consciousness of having endeavoured to act the part of a good citizen and to serve the best of all causes — Will you farther mention me particularly to Mr Adams; and inform him that I greatly respect his character?

Some good friends of yours and ~~mine~~ ^{myself} are well; but I differ from them at present in opinion.

Under a grateful sense of your friendship, and with great regard, and wishes of all possible happiness, I am
Dear Sir, your obliged and very obedient and
Humble Servant
Rich: Price

The interest of mankind depends so much on the forms of government established in America that I have long ~~desired~~ tho! it the duty of every man to contribute all he can towards improving them. I am possessor of some observations ^{ch} have been made by a great man with this view, and I may some time or other take the liberty to communicate them, with a few additional observations.

J. Price - the
great financier -

My best wishes to M^r J - 9th St &c.